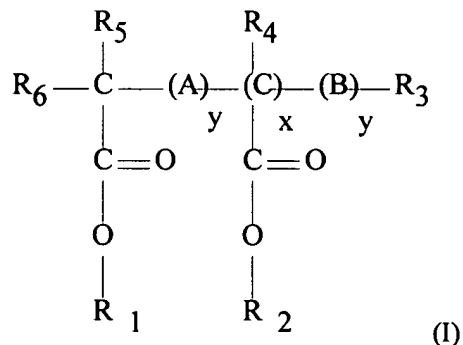


# AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

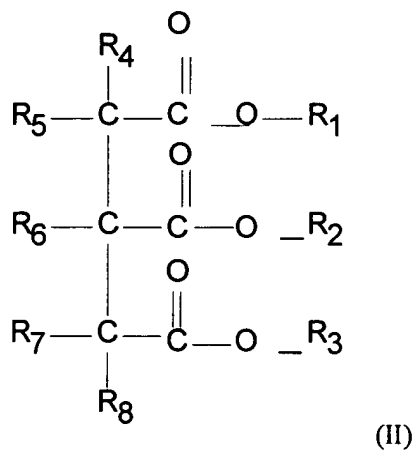
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a cooling agent together with an ester derivative of the following formulae:



wherein R<sub>1</sub> and R<sub>2</sub> are independently an alkyl, alkenyl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy groups of from about 2 to about 24 carbon atoms, hydroxy group or hydrogen group; R<sub>3</sub>, R<sub>4</sub>, R<sub>5</sub>, and R<sub>6</sub> are independently an alkyl, alkenyl, arylalkyl, hydroxyalkyl, alkoxy groups of from about 1 to about 24 carbon atoms, hydroxy group or hydrogen group; A and B are independently a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> linear or branched alkylene, alkyl, alkenylene, alkoxy, alkoxyalkylene, hydroxyalkylene, hydroxyalkyl groups; the values of x are independently from 0 to about 15; the values of y are independently 0 or 1,

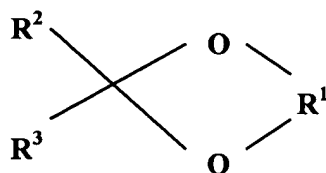
or



wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$  and  $R_3$  are independently an acyl, alkyl or alkenyl or hydroxyalkyl group with from about 1 to about 22 carbon atoms, and  $R_4$ ,  $R_5$ ,  $R_6$ ,  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  are independently selected from the group consisting of  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  linear or branched alkyl, acyl, alkenyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxy groups, hydroxy, chloride, bromide, amine or hydrogen, or mixture thereof.

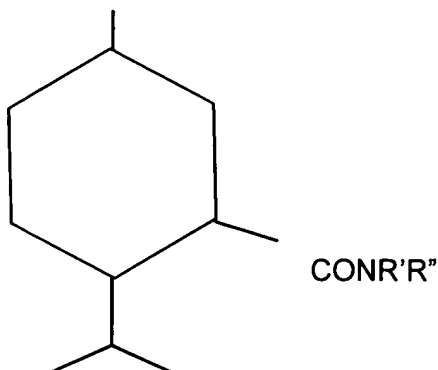
2. (Currently Amended) ★ The composition according to claim 1, wherein the cooling agent is able to convey a freshness sensation, without the need to modify temperature of the skin/mucosal surface of the mammal body to which the composition is applied.
3. (Currently Amended) ★ The composition according to claim 2, wherein the cooling agent is selected from the group consisting of ketals, carboxamides, cyclohexyl derivatives, cyclohexanol derivatives, borneol, camphor, eucalyptol, methyl salicylate, tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil, peppermint oil and mixtures thereof.
4. (Currently Amended) ★ The composition according to claim 2, wherein the cooling agent is selected from the group consisting of:

- a ketal according to the following formula:



in which  $R^1$  represents a  $C_2$  - $C_6$  -alkylene radical having at least 1, but not more than 3, hydroxyl group(s), preferably 1 hydroxyl group, and either  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  independently of one another represent  $C_1$ - $C_{10}$  -alkyl which is optionally substituted by 1 to 3 radicals selected from the group comprising hydroxyl, amino and halogen (such as fluorine, chlorine, bromine or iodine),  $C_5$ - $C_7$  -cycloalkyl, preferably cyclohexyl,  $C_6$  - $C_{12}$  -aryl, preferably phenyl, with the proviso that the total of the C atoms of  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  is not less than 3, or  $R^2$  and  $R^3$  together represent an alkylene radical which, together with the carbon atom which carries the radicals  $R^2$  and  $R^3$ , forms a 5-7-membered ring, it being possible for this alkylene radical, in turn, to be substituted by  $C_1$  - $C_6$  -aklyl groups, or mixtures thereof;

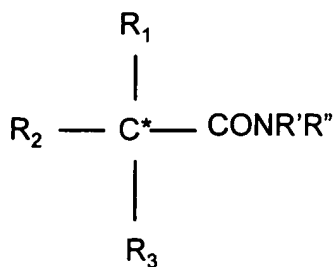
- or a carboxamide of the following formula:



(a)

wherein  $\text{R}'$ , when taken separately, is hydrogen or an aliphatic radical containing up to about 25 carbon atoms;  $\text{R}''$  when taken separately is hydroxy, or an aliphatic radical containing up to about 25 carbon atoms, with the proviso that when  $\text{R}'$  is hydrogen  $\text{R}''$  may also be an aryl radical of up to about 10 carbon atoms and selected from the group consisting of substituted phenyl, phenalkyl or substituted phenalkyl, naphthyl and substituted naphthyl, pyridyl; and  $\text{R}'$  and  $\text{R}''$ , when taken together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached, represent a cyclic or heterocyclic group of up to about 25 carbon atoms, or mixtures thereof,

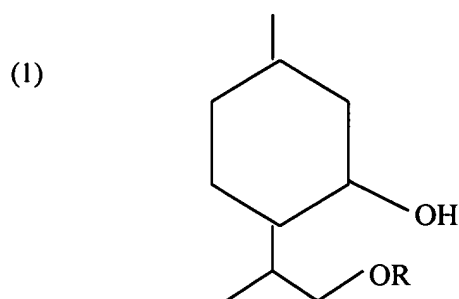
or (b)



wherein  $\text{R}'$  and  $\text{R}''$ , when taken separately, are each hydrogen,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$  alkyl or  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_8$  hydroxyalkyl and provide a total of no more than about 8 carbon atoms, with the proviso that when  $\text{R}'$  is hydrogen  $\text{R}''$  may also be alkylcarboxyalkyl of up to 6 carbon atoms;  $\text{R}'$  and  $\text{R}''$ , when taken together, represent an alkylene group of up to about 6 carbon atoms, the opposite ends of which group are attached to the amide nitrogen atom thereby to form a

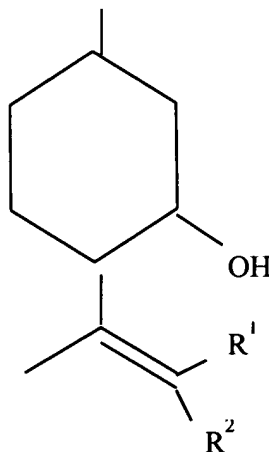
nitrogen heterocycle, the carbon chain of which may optionally be interrupted by oxygen; R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen or C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl; and R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are each C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl; with the provisos that (i) R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> together provide a total of at least 5 carbon atoms, preferably from about 5-10 carbon atoms; and (ii) when R<sub>1</sub> is hydrogen, R<sub>2</sub> is C<sub>2</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl and R<sub>3</sub> is C<sub>3</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkyl and at least one of R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> is branched, preferably in an alpha or beta position relative to the carbon atom marked (\*) in the formula, or a mixture thereof;

- or a cyclohexanol derivative according to the following general formulae:



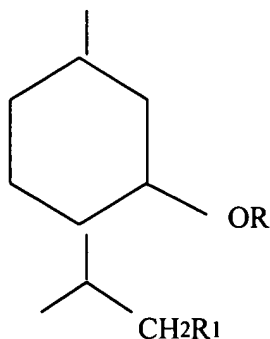
wherein R represents a linear or branched alkyl group having about 1 to about 5 carbon atoms, or mixtures thereof,

or (2)



wherein R<sup>1</sup> and R<sup>2</sup> are independently hydrogen, or a linear or branched alkyl group having about 1 to about 5 carbon atom, or mixtures thereof;

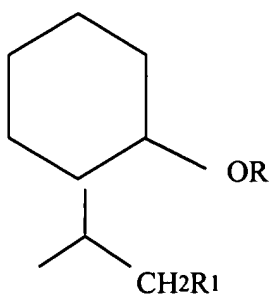
- or a cyclohexyl derivative according to the following general formula



wherein R represents -H, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> linear or branched alkyl group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy group or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> acyloxy group, R<sub>1</sub> represents -H, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from about 1 to about 5 carbon atoms, or mixtures thereof;

- or a mixture thereof.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The composition according to claim 2, wherein the cooling agent is (a) menthol and/or peppermint oil in combination with (b) a second cooling agent typically selected from the group consisting of ketals, carboxamides, cyclohexyl derivatives with the exception of menthol, cyclohexanol derivatives and mixtures thereof.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The composition according to claim 5, wherein the second cooling agent is a cyclohexyl derivative according to following formulae:



wherein R represents -H, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> linear or branched alkyl group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkenyl group, a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> alkoxy group or a C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>5</sub> acyloxy group, R<sub>1</sub> represents -H, or a linear or branched alkyl group having from about 1 to about 5 carbon atoms, with the exception of R and R<sub>1</sub> both being hydrogen, or mixtures thereof, and preferably is menthyl lactate, typically in a weight ratio of (a) to (b) from 1/1 to 1/100.

7. (Currently Amended) A The composition according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the ester derivative is according to formulae (II) and preferably is triethyl citrate, acetyl tributyl citrate and/or triacetyl citrate.
8. (Currently Amended) A The composition according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the cooling agent or a mixture thereof is present at a level of about 0.1% to about 99.9% and wherein the ester derivative or a mixture thereof is present at a level of from 99.9% to 0.1%, by weight of the total composition.
9. (Currently Amended) A composition suitable for topical application to external surface of a mammal, preferably human, according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~ in the form of a cream, lotion, emulsion, dispersion, gel, foam, oil, ointment or powder.
10. (Currently Amended) A ~~n~~ hygienic article, ~~preferably disposable absorbent article,~~ containing a composition according to ~~any of the preceding~~ claims 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~.
11. (Currently Amended) A ~~n~~ The article according to claim 9, wherein the article is a clothing, bandage, thermal pad, acne pad, cold pad, compress, surgical pad/dressing, protective bedding cover, gloves, socks, perspiration pad, shoe insole, shirt insert, animal litter, panty liner, feminine napkin, incontinent pad, diaper, tampon, interlabial pad, breast pad, dry or wet wipe or human or animal waste management device.
12. (Currently Amended) A disposable absorbent article ~~according to claim 9,~~ wherein the article comprises a topsheet containing the composition according to ~~any of the~~ claims 1, ~~2, 3 or 4~~.